

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 415

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Vivian Butler Smith of Oneida.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Vivian Butler Smith of Oneida; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a community philanthropist and educational leader of the highest order, she served with acumen and alacrity as a member of the Scott County Board of Education, in which position she earned the respect of her colleagues and the citizens she served for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oneida, Vivian Smith was born on June 2, 1943, to Hillard and Mable West Butler; and

WHEREAS, prior to her election to the Board of Education, she worked assiduously as Solid Waste Director for the Scott County Government, in which position she organized and implemented the "Scott County Looks Good to Me" and "I Spy" programs; and

WHEREAS, elected to the Scott County Board of Education in 2000, Vivian Smith represented the sixth District, which includes Oneida, and was serving her third term on the Board; and

WHEREAS, an innovative mind with an academic focus, Mrs. Smith went on to become the first School Board member in Scott County history to obtain Level Five Master status; and

WHEREAS, helping shape school board policy on a local and state level, she stood on the 2006 All Tennessee School Board and was also a board member of the Clinch-Powell Educational Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Smith gave of her time and many talents as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society (ACS), serving as Co-Chair of the ACS's local Relay for Life, as well as on the Society's Leadership Council and on an ACS Scott County support group; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and deeply respected member of her community, Mrs. Smith served on the Scott County Fairest of the Fair Committee, the Scott County Finance Committee, the Advisory Committees for Tennessee Scholars, the Advisory Council for the Scott County Museum, and the Tennessee Technology Cosmetology Department; she was also a board member of the Appalachian Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, a philanthropist in every aspect of her life, she stood as Secretary-Treasurer for Housing Opportunities of People (HOPE), and was a member of the Salvation Army's Scott County Unit, the Tennessee and Federal Relations Legislation, the Scott County 4-H, the board of Leadership Scott and Youth Leadership Scott, and an alumni member of the Leadership Upper Cumberland class of 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades for her many significant contributions, Vivian Smith was the honored recipient of the National School Board Association's prestigious Recognition Award, the 2008 Governor's Volunteer Star Award for the State of Tennessee, the 2009 Humanitarian Award from the Scott County Chamber of Commerce for unwavering dedication to volunteer services in Scott County, the Tennessee Colonel appointment, and resolutions from Scott County Government and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, she was inducted into the Scott County Hall of Fame by the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County as a community volunteer and also received great recognition when a day was named "Vivian Smith Day" in her honor at the Scott County Fair; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith was an active and devout member of the Winfield Baptist Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family and friends, who remember her for her upbeat approach to her long battle with cancer, for her compassion toward others, and for her exceptional community leadership; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Smith enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Richard B. Smith, and was the proud mother of Richard J. Smith and his wife, Brandi; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed by her two grandchildren; her brother, J.T. Butler and his wife, Donna; her sister-in-law, Margaret Wright; her dear friend, VeRhonda Hembree; and her nieces and nephews, among a host of other friends and relatives; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Vivian Butler Smith, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Vivian Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.